



H.R. 539 / S. 106



The Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act

Providing access to chiropractic services in Medicare removes barriers to care, levels the playing field for providers, and supports beneficiaries.

The Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act (H.R. 539 in the House, S. 106 in the Senate) would allow Medicare beneficiaries access to the chiropractic profession's broad-based, non-drug approach to pain management, which includes manual manipulation of the spine and extremities, evaluation and management services, diagnostic imaging and utilization of other non-drug approaches that have become an important strategy in national efforts to stem the epidemic of prescription opioid overuse and abuse.

The Importance of This Legislation for Patient Access:

- Access to chiropractic care is in the best interest of patients and it is a bipartisan issue. Medicare serves more than 60 million Americans.
- Research shows use of opioid prescriptions is significantly lower for patients who receive chiropractic care.
- Musculoskeletal pain, led by spinal disorders, cost the U.S. health care system multi-billions of dollars per year and is the most common cause of severe long-term pain and disability.
- Positive evidence-based outcomes and cost effectiveness have advanced private chiropractic coverage and state licensures to meet patient needs.
- Medicare currently limits the services doctors of chiropractic are allowed provide or order for their patients. This limitation has persisted for 50 years with no scientific or valid policy basis.
- Patients face delays, higher health care costs to obtain covered Medicare chiropractic services.
- Patients could face more costly or higher-risk procedures that often are unnecessary.

Key Points of The Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act:

- Provides patient access to all Medicare-covered benefits allowable under a chiropractor's state licensure.
- Does not add any new services to Medicare.
- Fully defines a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) as a "physician" in the Medicare program.
- Is bipartisan legislation, introduced and supported by both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

ACTION NEEDED

Doctors of chiropractic, chiropractic students, chiropractic patients and supporters are asked to contact their federal legislators and urge them to cosponsor H.R. 539 in the House and S. 106 in the Senate.

Individuals can go to acatoday.org/Medicare to register support online or by calling their legislators at 202-224-3121.

